

The Britt House
201 South First Street
Jacksonville, Jackson County
Oregon

HABS No. ORE-49

HABS
ORE
15 JACVI
3-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Western Office, Division of Design and Construction
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California

PHOTOGRAPH-DATA BOOK REPORT
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ORE-49
Page 1

HABE
088
15-JAN-61
3

THE BRITT HOUSE

Jacksonville, Jackson County, Oregon

ADDRESS: 201 South First Street (First and Main Streets)
OWNER: Britt Estate
USE: City Park

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

This Gothic Revival house was built in the 1860's and represented so well the rural charm of country Gothic, popular for a brief period in the United States. The maze gardens were patterned after European prototypes.

Peter Britt, a Swiss landscape and portrait painter, brought the first daguerrotype camera to territorial Oregon and set up the first photographic studio in 1852. His work ranked with the famous Brady and he owned an outstanding collection of cameras that was recognized by the Eastman House, Rochester. Mr. Britt became an eminent horticulturist and famous for his excellent wines.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The first part of the house was constructed in the 1860's as a single block with dormer windows lighting the second level. In the late 1880's a higher studio wing, containing a skylight, was added at right angles to the first structure. In 1912, after Britt's death in 1907, a third addition of a second story was added to the kitchen wing. It was continuously occupied by the Britt family until Miss Amalia Britt died and the property was willed to the Southern Oregon Historical Society in 1954. The house was destroyed by fire in 1960.

ORE-49
Page 2

Furniture, double doors to drawing room, paintings and photographic equipment are now in the custody of the Southern Oregon College and the Jacksonville Museum. House fragments are in possession of Mrs. Janice Houghton.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL AND SOURCES

Oregon Historical Quarterly, March 1956, Vol. LVII - No. 1
Marion Dean Ross, Portland, Oregon

State Land Board Records, State of Oregon

Dowell Letters, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon

Letter Book 14: /9/20/8/53/151/183/220, Jacksonville Museum

Deichman Letter, Houghton files

Eastman House Letter, Houghton files

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

EXTERIOR

Overall Dimensions - Roughly "T" shaped within 78' x 50' with approximately 25' wings and with an 8' porch on the northeast end; two storied.

Wall Construction - Clapboard on wood frame.

Foundations - Rock.

Openings - Double-hung windows in canopied openings.

Roof - Cedar shingles. 1 to 1 slope. Gable ends, decorated with scroll sawn barge boards, and finials in the Gothic fashion.

Chimneys - Brick, slightly ornamented.

ORE
15.540V1
3'

ORE-49
Page 3

INTERIOR

Floor Plan - Small central hall in center of building, leading to stairs to studio on second floor. Eight rooms and conservatory on the first floor. Six rooms on the second floor.

Stairway - Enclosed to second floor; open stairway with balustrade to third or attic.

Flooring - Plank pine.

Wall and Ceiling Finish - Hand split lath covered with old style plaster. Cold water paint in light colors throughout main rooms. Drop moldings.

Doors - Four panel and two panel. One tongue and groove.

Trim - Flat in secondary rooms. More elaborate in parlor. Grained finish in front hall.

Hardware - Mortise lock sets with white porcelain knobs and Bennington knobs.

Lighting - Electric.

Heating - Stoves and fireplaces.

SITE

Located on a five acre garden plot, the building was approximately 25' from the street, at the head of Pine Street facing east. The site was elaborately landscaped with a series of foundains, a lily pond and a garden house; and was enclosed with picket fence and hedges.

OUTBUILDINGS

At one time outbuildings consisted of a wine press house, wood shed, carriage house, blacksmith shop, chicken house, dog house and privy.

ORE
15. JACVI
3

ORE-49
Page 4

Prepared by,

Jane David Houghton

Mrs. Dwight L. Houghton

September 1964

APPROVED:

Charles S. Pope

DATE: *Nov 1964*

Charles S. Pope, AIA
Supervising Architect, Historic Structures
Western Office, Design and Construction
National Park Service

PRINTS & PHOTOGRAPHY